been brought under the cultivation of oil palm in these States under this Project.

iii. Schemes for the development of nurseries, seed gardens, demonstration plants and area expansion have been drawn up for States with potential for red oil palm development by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation.

(c) The production of palm oil by OPIL has gone up to 2484 metric tonnes in 1990-91, from the level of 2108 metric tonnes during 1989-90.

(d) and (e). OPIL has its own processing and marketing arrangements for the palm oil produced in the OPIL estates. The processing capacity is under augmentation.

[Translation]

Backlog of Reserved Posts

3523. SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the backlog of posts reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in his Ministry as on November 1, 1991;

(b) the number of such posts filled up during the last three months, category-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to clear the backlog?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) The backlog (in different categories of posts) of posts reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as on November 1, 1991 is as follows:

	SC	*ST*	*TOTAL*
Group D posts	Nil	2	2
Group C Pposts (LDCs, UDCs, Gr. III Stones)	19	17	36
Group B posts (Assistant, Cypher Assistants, Gr. II PAs, PSs)	19	35	54
Group A posts	Nil	Nil	Nil

(b) The number of such posts filled up during last three months category-wise, is as follows:

	SC	*ST*	*TOTAL*
Group D posts	5	3	8
Group C posts (LDCs, UDCs, Gr. III Stenos)	4	2	6

	SC	*ST*	*TOTAL*
Group B posts (Assistants, Cypher Assist ants, Gr. II PAs, PSs)	4	1	5
Group A posts	Nil	Nil	Nil

(c) Recruitment to all the categories (except Group D and Cypher Assistant) is through open competitive examinations conducted by Staff Selection Commission/ Union Public Service Commission. The unfilled SC\ST vacancies of previous years have been included in the indents placed with Staff Selection Commission for allotment of candidates from the examinations held/to be held during the current year. The Ministry is also participating in the Special Recruitment Drive, being undertaken to fill up the backlog.

As regards Group D, applications have already been invited from Scheduled Tribe candidates with a view to fill up the vacancies.

As for Cypher Assistants, the recruitment is through a Limited Departmental Examination. SC/ST candidates are encouraged to participate and given the benefit of reservation as well as relaxation of standards so that no backlog of reserved vacancies should remain.

[*English*]

Allotment of LPG agencies in Andhra Pradesh

3524. SHRI K.P. REDDAIAH YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the details of the new LPG agencies proposed to be allotted during 1991-92 in Andhra Pradesh, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR) Allocation of new LPG agencies are done on the basis of approved Marketing Plans from time to time. No new Marketing Plan has been separately finalised for the year 1991-92.

[*Translation*]

External Assistance for Irrigation Projects

3525. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign institutions had provided financial assistance to each State for the implemention of irrigation projects during the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(b) whether similar assistance is proposed to be provided to each State during the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) During the 7th Five-year Plan, Irrigation Projects were under implementation with external assistance in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajastha, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.